

# L.A. Planning Commission calls for smaller Ponte Vista for San Pedro

12:35 PM | April 9, 2009



The Los Angeles Planning Commission today rejected a 1,950-unit housing project for a 61.5-acre site in San Pedro, but it directed its staff to continue to work with the community and developers of the proposed Ponte Vista to come up with a smaller project.

Planners will have six months to try to forge a compromise between the staff recommendation of about 775 to 885 units and the developer's latest proposal of 1,395 units. Developers originally wanted 2,300 homes on the site of surplus Navy housing but then dropped the number to 1,950 in the face of community opposition.

Proponents say the project would provide much-needed affordable housing and jobs, but opponents cited congestion and already terrible traffic problems along Western Avenue.

"We're giving one more shot at coming up with a compromise," Councilwoman Janice Hahn said after the meeting.

The project has split the close-knit portside community. People on both sides of the issue packed the City Council chambers today and some participated in the proceedings from a remote TV feed in San Pedro.

-- Jean Merl

*Photo: Councilwoman Janice Hahn, 15th district, listens to debate during the Los Angeles Planning Commission at Los Angeles City Hall. Developers proposed a somewhat-scaled-back housing development for a 61.5-acre site in San Pedro. Credit: Allen J. Schaben / LA Times*